
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

The NCDOT commits to conduct the following additional studies and carry out certain tasks in order to minimize potential impacts identified throughout the DEIS. These commitments are as follows:

1. Project Development and Environmental Analysis, Roadside Environmental Unit, Roadway Design Unit, Division 11 Right-of-Way Office and Division 11 Office
 - As a part of a continued agency coordination program, final design plans and a final landscape or revegetation plan will be prepared for the preferred alternative with input from local officials, natural resource agencies, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Advisory Council of Historic Places (ACHP), and the National Park Service.
 - An integrated utility relocation plan will be prepared for the Widening Alternative if it is selected as the preferred alternative.
2. Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch
 - A survey will be conducted for the Heller's blazing star, a protected species, in the corridor of the preferred alternative.
 - A Memorandum of Agreement will be developed between the FHWA, the NCDOT, the SHPO, the ACHP, and National Park Service for mitigating effects for the preferred alternative, if one is selected that has an adverse effect on a historic resource listed on or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Development of the agreement will consider input from other consulting parties.
3. Project Development and Environmental Analysis, Roadway Design Unit, Geotechnical Unit, Human Environment Office
 - A construction and traffic management plan will be prepared that includes a contractor incentive program, a public outreach program, a blasting control program, and other techniques to help minimize construction period impacts. Input will be solicited from the Town of Blowing Rock, Caldwell and Watauga Counties, and the National Park Service.